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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/716,235	11/18/2003	Edward S. Robbins III	10813/127	6758

27879 7590 07/20/2005

INDIANAPOLIS OFFICE 27879  
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INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204-2033

EXAMINER
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SEMBER, THOMAS M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2875

DATE MAILED: 07/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/716,235

Applicant(s)

ROBBINS, EDWARD S.

Examiner

Thomas M. Sember

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 12-14 and 19-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 12-14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7 and 19-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5, 6, 8-10 and 22 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Double Patenting*

1. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

2. Claims 1-4 and 7 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,394,171 in view of Pitman. Claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,394,171 discloses applicant's invention except for the teaching of a luminescent material located on the lateral or upper margin of a passage. Pitman et al discloses a luminescent material on the trim surrounding the doorway of a building, see column 5, lines 1-5. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the passage of Claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,394,171 to include a luminescent material on the upper and lateral margins of the doorway in order to efficiently warn others of the presence of the doorway as taught by Pitman et al.

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3. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

4. Claims 1-4 and 7 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-2 and 4-48 of copending Application No. 10/474/175 in view of Pitman. Claims 1-2 and 4-48 of copending Application No. 10/474/175 discloses applicant's invention except for the teaching of a luminescent material located on the lateral or upper margin of a passage. Pitman et al discloses a luminescent material on the trim surrounding the doorway of a building, see column 5, lines 1-5. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the passage of claims 1-2 and 4-48 of copending Application No. 10/474/175 to include a luminescent material on the upper and lateral margins of the doorway in order to efficiently warn others of the presence of the doorway as taught by Pitman et al.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (Abadi et al or Pomaville et al) in view of Pitman. (Abadi et al or Pomaville et al) discloses applicant's invention except for the teaching of a luminescent material located on the lateral or upper margin of a passage. (Abadi et al or Pomaville et al) teaches a flexible transparent strips 20 as a curtain. Pitman et al discloses a luminescent material on the trim surrounding the doorway of a building, see column 5, lines 1-5. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the passage of (Abadi et al or Pomaville et al) to include a luminescent material as taught by Pitman on the upper and lateral margins of the doorway in order to efficiently warn others of the presence of the doorway as taught by Pitman et al. Regarding claim 2, as broadly claimed the color emitted from the luminescent material would be **about** 500-650 nm. Regarding claim 3, the curtain holder comprises plastic material and so does the margin highlighter of Pitman et al. Regarding claim 4, the term "**about**" 30 cm is extremely broad and Abadi et al in view of Pitman meets this limitation.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Abadi et al. Abadi et al discloses a curtain-holding apparatus to be fixed adjacent to an upper margin of the passage including a plurality of outwardly extending pegs 32 suspending flexible transparent strips 20 of the curtain, each strip having an upper end coupled to at least two of the outwardly extending pegs and a lower end adjacent to a lower margin of the passage, a retaining structure 30 having a back surface to retain the flexible transparent strips in coupled relation to the pegs, and a buffer 33 (the part of the peg that isn't flush with the retaining structure) for preventing direct interaction between the flexible transparent strips and a back surface of a retaining structure. Regarding claim 20, each buffer could be considered discrete. Regarding claim 21, each buffer has a lateral element coupled to the pegs 32.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 12-14 are allowed.

4. Claims 5-6, 8-10 and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4, 7 and 19-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Pomaville et al discloses a curtain assembly which is similar to applicant's invention. Gross and Britt teach margin highlighters similar to applicant's invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas M. Sember whose telephone number is 571-272-2381. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8 A.M- 5.30 p.m. first Fridays off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 571-272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Thomas M Sember  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2875

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